



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Region
Office of Communications
Washington, D.C.

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242
202 ● 619 ● 7400 phone
202 ● 619 ● 7302 fax

Office of Communication Media Advisory

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Bill Line/Toni Braxton 202-619-7222

National Park Service, National Capital Region Hosts Open House Meeting Seeking Comment on Cost Recovery Procedures for Certain Special Park Use and Public Gathering Permits


- **WHAT:** The National Park Service (NPS) will conduct an Open House meeting seeking public comment on a proposed procedure to recover processing costs of certain special park use and public gathering permits. The procedure to be implemented will affect permits for "special events", which includes sports events, pageants, celebrations, historical reenactments, regattas, entertainments, exhibitions, parades, fairs, festivals and similar events, as well as other permitted activities such as walks and footraces, sport field uses, weddings, and picnics for activities held in the National Mall & Memorial Parks and in other NPS parks in the National Capital Region (NCR) which are regulated by 36 CFR 7.96. This includes the following park areas, each of which are administered by separate Superintendents: National Mall & Memorial Parks, President's Park, Rock Creek Park, National Capital Parks East, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Prince William Forest Park, and a portion of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.
- The Open House meeting is designed to allow the public to better understand the proposed procedures, to talk with park officials about how the proposed procedures will work, and to provide comment that may help the NPS improve its implementation.

The proposed procedure may be read and opportunities to provide written comment may be submitted online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Once at that site, choose National Mall & Memorial Parks from the drop-down park menu. Written comments may also be sent via facsimile to (202) 401-2430 or submitted via U.S. Mail to:

National Park Service, Division of Park Programs
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Room 128
Washington, D.C. 20242

Online comments must be submitted and written comments post-marked by September 1, 2006. All written comments will be open for public inspection.

- **WHEN/WHERE:** Wednesday, August 2, 2006, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Old Post Office Pavilion, 12th & Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Room M09. Enter from the south entrance off of 12th Street, just north of the IRS building. This entrance meets ADA Accessibility Standards; however, persons with special needs may contact Mr. Stan Cofield or Mr. Titus Early at (202) 606-8691 to arrange for special accommodation.
(Metro: Federal Triangle station, Blue or Orange lines).
- **WHO:** Superintendents and staff from the National Mall & Memorial Parks, Rock Creek Park, National Capital Parks-East, C & O Canal National Historical Park, George Washington Memorial Parkway, President's Park, Prince William Forest Park, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Manassas National Battlefield and representatives from the United States Park Police.

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- **BACKGROUND:** Following a recent inquiry and report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and pursuant to 16 USC § 3 a, O.M.B. Circular A-25 and NPS policy, the NPS is proposing to fully recover and collect costs associated with special park use and public gathering permits. The NPS and the NCR specifically, is proposing to recover the cost of processing the above-mentioned permits, which will initially include costs for processing the application, to be followed at a later date by recovery of additional costs associated with administration and monitoring of permitted activities. The NPS and the NCR will implement the proposed procedure in accordance with GAO's findings, so as to align with existing procedures used in parks throughout the nation.

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